



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Higher Education Coordinating Commission

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Co-Chair, Senator Lew Frederick
Co-Chair, Representative Susan McLain
Joint Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Education

Dear Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain,

Thank you for the opportunity to answer questions that arose during the **April 21, 2021** Higher Education Coordinating Commission's presentation to the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education.

In regard to slides 189 and 219, Senator Dembrow and Representative McLain asked how state Current Service Level (CSL) relates to the amount that institutions sometimes characterize as "true" or "actual" CSL. We understand that staff from the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) and Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO) are currently working on explanatory information for the committee that details how CSL is calculated. We defer to the technical expertise they will provide in their follow-up.

On slide 206, Senator Dembrow asked whether we can track students who transferred from an Oregon community college to an Oregon public university and did not complete a degree at either institution. We can report that 61%, or 3,542, of the Oregon community college students who transferred to an Oregon public university in 2019-20 arrived without an associate degree. For an earlier transfer cohort with the same characteristics for whom we are able to track outcomes, the majority earned their bachelor's degree within six years (64.1%), but a sizable minority did not (35.9%). These graduation rates were slightly higher for students who transferred in with at least 90 credits (half the number required for a bachelor's degree) than for students who transfer in with 45 to 89 credits. Table 1, below, shows these differences.

Table 1. Percentage of Oregon community college students who transferred to a public university without an associate degree in 2014-15 and who earned a bachelor's degree, by year and number of credits at university admission.

Number of credits at time of transfer	Percentage earning bachelor's degree within four years	Percentage earning bachelor's degree within six years
45 to 89	50.3%	60.5%
90 or more	63.5%	70.6%
Total	55.1%	64.1%

Source: HECC analysis of student-level data.

Senator Dembrow also asked whether the Oregon Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) would help us with tracking outcomes for these students who have some college and no degree. Yes, the SLDS will help us track additional precursors and outcomes for these students, including their high school experience and graduation and their Oregon wage outcomes. SLDS staff are currently compiling a report that will include this information.

On slide 212, Representative Alonso León asked whether the 35% of students who receive federal grant aid included those who had not filed a FAFSA/ORSAA and whether data for this figure were available over time. This percentage does include students who had not filed a complete FAFSA/ORSAA. Specifically, the figure shows the percentage of students who received a federal Pell grant, an Oregon Opportunity Grant (OOG), or an Oregon Promise grant (OPG), among those whose primary area of instruction was career and technical education (CTE), lower-division collegiate (LDC), or developmental education (Dev. Ed.). (Students in high school taking accelerated learning classes are excluded from this figure.) Among students who filed a complete FAFSA/ORSAA and whose primary area of instruction was CTE, LDC, or Dev. Ed., 74% had received a federal Pell grant, an OOG, or an OPG. Both of these percentages are shown for the past four years in Table 2, below. We note that in 2019-20, 54% of community college students filed a complete FAFSA/ORSAA (i.e., community college students whose primary area of instruction was CTE, LDC, or Dev. Ed. and who were not taking accelerated learning classes).

Table 2. Percentage of Oregon community college students who received a federal Pell grant, an Oregon Opportunity Grant, or an Oregon Promise grant, by financial aid filing status and year.

Year	Percentage among total group ¹	Percentage among students with completed financial aid application ²
2019-20	38%	73%
2018-19	35%	74%
2017-18	35%	72%
2016-17	35%	72%

Source: HECC analysis of student-level data.

¹ Includes students whose primary area of instruction was career and technical education (CTE), lower-division collegiate (LDC), or developmental education (Dev. Ed.) and excludes students in high school taking accelerated learning classes.

² Completed financial aid applications include the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and the Oregon Student Aid Application.

On slide 212, Senator Dembrow asked whether there were data on the federal debt incurred by associate degree graduates. This was in reference to the slide’s statement reading, “The average federal debt for students who receive a bachelor’s degree is \$14,705.” The dollar total on the slide actually refers to the federal student loan debt incurred by associate degree graduates; the slide misstates the total as pertaining to bachelor’s degree graduates. We apologize for the error. The parallel total for bachelor’s degree graduates is \$22,273.

On slide 214, Representative Alonso León asked about the relationship between public aid grants and the cost of attendance at community colleges. On average, among community college students who filed a complete FAFSA/ORSAA, federal and state student grant aid

covered 31% of the \$21,091 annual cost of community college attendance in 2018-19 (the most recent year for which we have these data calculated). Among community college students who received any federal or state student aid, these grants covered an average of 45% of the cost of attendance. We note that all federal and state grants are included here. The Pell grant, the OOG, and the OPG are by far the most common, but some students do receive other public grants, and these are also included.

Looking only at the combined value of the Pell, OOG, and OPG grants, their maximum value in a more recent year (2020-21) covered 47% of the cost of attendance at a community college. Specifically, for a low-income, full-time student with a zero (\$0) Expected Family Contribution (EFC), the Pell grant would provide \$6,345 in grant aid and the OOG up to \$2,778 – or \$9,123 combined. If this student was also a recent HS graduate/GED and received the Oregon Promise grant, the student would receive an additional \$850 (after \$50 co-pay per term) for a total of \$9,973 in public grant aid, or about 47% of the \$21,091 total average cost of attendance at an Oregon community college.

Additional aid may be applied from scholarships, federal work study, institutional aid, and subsidized loans in an individualized financial aid package prepared by the institution for the student. Undergraduate students with the highest need are also considered by the institution for a Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) which can be awarded to those with the most exceptional need. Those grants range from as low as \$100 to \$4,000 and are dependent on availability of such additional federal funds at the institution.

If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Kyle Thomas, Director of Legislative and Policy Affairs, at kyle.thomas@state.or.us or at 503-480-9596.

Sincerely,



Ben Cannon
Executive Director